



Programme

European Research Culture Observatory Conference 2024



BRITISH
COUNCIL

European Research Culture Observatory Conference 2024

6 and 7 November 2024

Amsterdam Zuid, Netherlands

**In partnership with the British Council, UK
Science and Innovation Network and N8
Research Partnership**

Welcome

We are delighted that you are considering attending the European Research Culture Observatory meeting on 6 and 7 November 2024 in Amsterdam.

This closed meeting is for those who are enablers of improved research culture across Europe including the United Kingdom and is being delivered in partnership with the N8 Research Partnership and the UK Science & Innovation Network.

In 2023, the first collaboration workshop was held in Manchester, which brought together a delegation of universities, research institutes, research funders and mission groups from West Europe (Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and France) and the UK (UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Wellcome, Royal Society, British Academy, Russell Group as well the N8 universities).

The collaboration agreed to establish the European Research Culture Observatory with the vision that in five years' time that that:

- Embedded common values and principles and is open and inclusive in its funding schemes, impact routes, researcher profiles, career trajectories and international networks
- is open to sharing about research and innovation practice, explicitly acknowledging challenges.

So that we:

- have a more original, productive, transformative, collaborative and impactful research and innovation system; and
- can attract talented people and enable them to flourish.

On behalf the organising group, we very much hope that you will join us in November and have included more detailed practical information to help with your decision. Please RSVP by the 30 September.

Programme

Our shared vision of a European Research Culture highlighted the importance of values and initiatives such as transparency, flexible pathways, openness and exchange, training, charters of behaviour and broader definitions of leadership

Theme:

Fostering cultures where researchers thrive.

By the end of the time together, the aim is to have a shared understanding of how to have a common framework for measuring progress in improving research cultures, so that researchers can thrive.

Aims:

We know that implementing change in your institution can be harder than talking about it at a meeting. So as part of our work together we will explore practical ways of implementing change in the context of our core themes and how to measure that change. The meeting will also consider how the European Research Culture Observatory could develop as collaborative platform to support a network of practice.

The objective:

- To network with other professional and policy makers working on research cultures
- To focus on a key theme that is relevant to your work.
- To be supported to make change within your institution
- To develop a Europe wide network of practice for your work.

Our shared understanding of research cultures

Common features of pressures on the research environment included:

People

- Acknowledgement is individual, not team-based.
- We don't acknowledge or value the time that is taken to do research.

Culture

- What is the lens through which we individually, and collectively, perceive research culture?
- What is the appropriate level of freedom and what are the constraints/boundary conditions?
- Power dynamics within institutions are a strong feature of the culture.
- Risk profiles of institutions, individuals and funders.
- Focus is on incremental change versus high-risk and high-reward.
- Focus is on the individual not the team. Collaboration is hard and there are systemic disincentives and lack of reward for the additional effort required to collaborate successfully.
- Too much influence from institutional rankings industry; high impact factor publishers.

Talent

- Participants spent some time sharing their own experiences of the culture of research and innovation in their workplace or country.
- There is global competition for top talent. In European research institutions we cannot compete on the basis of salaries and we need to look to offer better working environments to attract excellent researchers.
- Traditional career paths are not attractive to the next generations of researchers.
- There is a stigma related to careers beyond academia.
- We need to attract people into academia from other sectors e.g. industry, charity, perhaps through fellowships or adjunct roles.
- We need to plug the 'leaky pipeline' whereby researchers from minority groups exit the research body as they advance along the career pathway.

Time	6 November 2024
12:00pm	Arrival and registration
1:00pm	Welcome address and opening remarks
1:30pm	Workshop: Expectations setting To support group networking and to understand their current understanding of research cultures.
2:30pm	Gender and Research Cultures
3:30pm	Break
4:00pm	Gossip Session: A chance to share our current insights on research cultures and the barriers to progress.
5:00pm	Closing remarks and briefing on the second day
6:00pm	Reception and welcome dinner

Time	7 November 2024
09:00am to 9:30am	Arrival
9:30am	In Conversation: An insight into current trends in research culture in the United Kingdom
10:30am	Break
11:00am	In Conversation: An insight into current trends in research culture in Europe
12:00pm	Workshop: Developing a common understanding of measuring progress in research cultures.
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Workshop: Building a stronger European network and the role of the observatory
3:00pm	Break
3:30pm	Final workshop

4:30pm	Closing
5:30pm	Visit to <i>Meet the New Artists</i> - Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten. Meet at Amstelveenseweg Tram stop.

Conference partners

The N8 Research Partnership is a collaboration of the eight most research intensive Universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York.

Working with universities, industry and society, N8 aims to maximise the impact of this research base by:

- promoting collaboration
- establishing innovative research capabilities & programmes of national and international prominence
- driving economic growth

The **UK's Science and Innovation Network (SIN)** leads on developing science partnerships and deploying science diplomacy around the world. The UK is a global power in science, technology, and innovation. International collaboration is essential to maintaining the UK's scientific base, supporting the competitive advantage of our innovative businesses whilst addressing shared opportunities and threats.

The SIN has approximately 130 staff in over 65 locations across the world building partnerships and collaborations on science, technology and innovation. SIN staff work with local science and innovation organisations in support of UK policy abroad, to benefit both the UK and the host country.

The **British Council** supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. For 90 years the British Council have shaped brighter futures through education, arts, culture, language, and creativity.

Practical information

Location

The conference will be in Amsterdam Zuid at:

Tribes Amsterdam Zuiderhof
Jachthavenweg 109-H
1081 KM Amsterdam

Getting Here

International travel to the Netherlands is possible via a variety of routes. Most visitors will arrive by air for which [Schiphol](#) remains the main hub for international airlines. However, other airports with good international links include [Rotterdam](#), [Eindhoven](#), [Groningen](#) and [Maastricht](#). The growth of economy airlines has also opened up a number of new options. Many budget airlines connect British destinations with Eindhoven, Maastricht ([Ryanair](#)), Amsterdam ([Easy Jet](#), [Jet2](#)) and Rotterdam.

Arriving by air at Schiphol Airport

Amsterdam has one airport: [Schiphol](#). It offers excellent connections by public transport in addition to taxis.

By train:

A direct train connects Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Zuid Station and is the fastest and most convenient way to get to the city centre. Trains run every 15 minutes or so from platforms 1 & 2 in the main arrival hall and cost €4.90 for a single journey and €9.80 for a return on the same day. It is worth noting that the ticket machines on the airport concourse will only accept payment in Euros, either by credit card, bank debit card or cash. You can also use [OVpay](#): checking in and out with your contactless debit card or; alternatively, you can buy a ticket at the counter (there may be long queues!), but you will have to pay a surcharge of €1.00.

You can also book tickets online in advance via www.ns.nl

Arriving by Rail

Amsterdam, as the capital of the Netherlands (Den Haag is the seat of government), has very good national and international rail connections. Trains will arrive at [Amsterdam Central Station](#).

On a daily basis, trains will depart from Amsterdam Central Station to major European cities e.g. Thalys departs several times a day to Antwerp, Brussels and Paris.

You can travel with Eurostar from Amsterdam to London, however due to renovation works at Amsterdam Centraal; Eurostar won't run from Amsterdam Centraal from June 2024 to May 2025. You will need to change in Brussels-Midi/Zuid during this period.

There are connections to most towns and cities in the Netherlands. For more information about train connections to the rest of the country, please see the [Netherlands railway website \(NS.nl\)](#).

[Traveling with a functional disability](#). If you travel with a physical disability and need help boarding, transferring, or exiting the train, or if you have a visual disability and need someone to guide you through the station, then you can take advantage of the free NS Travel Assistance service. You can call 030-2357822 for help; this must be done at least 1 hour prior to traveling.

Please note if you do not have a valid ticket or forget to check in, the fine for travelling on public transport without a ticket is € 50, over and above the cost of the train ticket (it is the same amount for all forms of public transport: bus, tram, metro, and train.)

Taxi Services

Taxi services at the airports and station are also available and are safe to use. Please make your way to the dedicated taxi bays and indicate your destination.

Should you need a taxi on your way back to the airport most hotels will be happy to call one for you. In Amsterdam [TCA](#) (Taxi Centrale Amsterdam) is the main taxi service +31 (0)20 777 7777.

All taxis have visible meters. Please make sure the meter is switched on when the journey starts. Taxis are very reliable and safe. A small number offer payment by credit card.

Uber fares to the British Council office in Raamplein cost approximately €40.00 from Schiphol, and approximately €15.00 from Central Station.

Visa Requirements / Entry Procedure

Since these requirements are subject to change, you are advised to check the following website for the most up-to-date information: <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/>

Normally, citizens of the EU and other Schengen states do not require a visa to visit the Netherlands. Citizens of other countries require a visa unless they are from a country for which the Schengen states have specifically abolished the requirements, and this will need to be checked prior to the visit.

Customs Procedures

General information about customs procedures can be found at [Dutch customs](#).

Hotels

Useful websites for hotel bookings are www.hotels.nl or www.trivago.nl. These sites offer online booking with immediate confirmation. It normally offers preferential rates.

- [Element Amsterdam](#)
A.J. Ernststraat 577, Amsterdam, 1082 LV, Netherlands
- [Crowne Plaza Amsterdam - South, an IHG Hotel](#)
- [hotel Amsterdam Zuid](#)

Health Requirements

We recommend that you check your travel and medical insurance before travelling to the Netherlands.

A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) entitles you to medical treatment at a reduced-cost (sometimes free) that becomes necessary while you're in a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland. The EHIC has replaced the old E111, from 1 January 2006, these are no longer valid. The quickest and easiest way to get an EHIC is to apply online: [applying for a European Health Insurance Card](#)

The EHIC is normally valid for three to five years and covers any medical treatment that becomes necessary during your trip, because of either illness or an accident. The card gives access to state-provided medical treatment only, and you'll be treated on the same basis as an 'insured' person living in the country that you're visiting. Remember, this might not cover all the things you'd expect to get free of charge from the NHS in the UK. You also may have to contribute to the cost of your care.

People who are ordinarily a resident in the UK are entitled to a UK-issued EHIC. ([UK residents applying for a European Health Insurance Card](#))

Pharmacies

Most pharmacies are open Monday to Friday from 08.30 – 17.00, though some are open later, particularly in tourist areas. They are called *Apotheek* in Dutch. There is always at least one pharmacy in each district providing an emergency service for evenings and nighttime emergencies. Addresses can be found on a board in the window of most pharmacies.

Boots apotheek, Loverestein is based in Amsterdam Zuid.

Accessibility

The accessibility of public buildings, public transport and parking facilities for visitors with various forms of disability is taken very seriously and is often mandated by law.

For more information: <https://www.iamsterdam.com/practical-info/disabled-travellers>.

Time

The Netherlands uses Central European Time (GMT+1). This one-hour difference is also maintained during British Summer Time when the Dutch put their clocks forward one hour.

Public Transport

Public transport in the Netherlands, and especially in Amsterdam, is excellent. Amsterdam has a very extensive network of trams and buses, and a metro service. They all run frequently, and you can easily get from one point of the city to another. More information can be found at <https://en.gvb.nl/>.

The above link will also provide information about all types of fares and [how to pay](#). The normal fare for travel within Amsterdam is €3.40; valid for one hour. A card valid for one day costs €9.00.

The day and multi-day ticket is also available at various hotels, camp sites, Tours & Tickets and AKO bookstores in Amsterdam. Check at sales points here.

Amsterdam may offer special tourist tickets called the “[I Amsterdam City Card](#)”. This offers 24, 48, 72, 96 or 120 hours of travel as well as reduced admission to a number of tourist attractions and museums. Please enquire at the tourist office opposite Amsterdam Central Station for exact details.

Please note that there are frequent control checks on public transport. Travelling without a valid ticket may result in a fine if you are caught. Not checking in/validating a ticket purchased from a machine is also considered as travelling without valid ticket.

Currency

The Netherlands is part of the EU monetary union. The currency is the Euro (€). Please note, however, that the use of credit cards is less frequent than in the UK or other parts in the world. Although hotels and restaurants usually accept payment by credit card (and a PIN is increasingly required) you may find shops and department stores where this will not be possible.

It is advisable, therefore, to bring some cash, though also you will find some shops/supermarkets will only accept cards.

Public Utilities

The electricity supply in the Netherlands is 220V with a two-pin plug. Visitors from the UK or countries outside Europe should bring an adaptor for their electrical devices.

It is safe to drink tap water although bottled supplies will be provided by most hotels and is also available in supermarkets and convenience stores.

Religious Communities

Amsterdam is home to many religious communities: see

<https://www.iamsterdam.com/english-church-services>

Buddhism:

[Amsterdam's China Town](#)'s China Town is home to a Chinese Buddhist temple called **Fo Guang Shan He Hua** (or the **Zeedijk Tempel**, after its location).

Catholic church in the Netherlands:

<http://www.rkkerk.nl> (Only in Dutch)

Hinduism:

A list of Hindu temples in the Netherlands can be found at: [Hindu community website](#).
(at the bottom of the webpage)

Jewish community in the Netherlands:

Phone: +31 (0)20 301 8484 [Jewish community website \(NIK\)](#)

Muslim community in the Netherlands:

Prayer times and a comprehensive list of mosques in the Netherlands can be found at: [Muslim community website \(Islamicfinder\)](#)

Protestant church in the Netherlands:

Phone: +31 (0)30 880 1880 <https://www.protestant-church.nl> (Only in Dutch)

Tourist Information

Theatre

Amsterdam has a number of theatres, including the [Stadschouwburg](#), the [Carré](#) and the [Dutch National Opera & Ballet](#) – see [Amsterdam.info/theatres/](#). The [Concertgebouw](#) is well-known as a classical music venue; the [Paradiso](#) and [Melkweg](#) are famous rock concert venue.

Cinema



Situated a stone's throw from the Rembrandtplein in the city center is arguably Amsterdam's - and perhaps the world's - most stunning movie theatre, the Pathe Tuschinski.

Commissioned by Abraham Icek Tuschinski in 1921, the interior and exterior blend several designs, with a heavy emphasis on Art Deco. And like the décor, the movies are also a mix of styles; Hollywood blockbusters play next to art house darlings. The main hall is the most impressive, preserving the most charm. Be sure to arrive early enough to kick back and gaze admiringly at the ornate ceiling.

Almost every movie is shown in the original language and

Dutch subtitled. [Pathe Tuschinski](#), Reguliersbreestraat 26-34, 1017CN Amsterdam.

Museums in Amsterdam

There are a number of famous museums in Amsterdam, including the [Rijksmuseum](#), the [Van Gogh Museum](#), [Stedelijk Museum](#), [het Scheepvaartmuseum](#) (the National Maritime Museum) and the [Verzetsmuseum](#) (The Resistance Museum opposite Artis Zoo).

More tourist information can be found at <https://www.iamsterdam.com/en>, including information about forthcoming events, hotels, etc. as well as general information about the city.

Vegetarian / Vegan

Though Amsterdam restaurants cover a wide range of international cuisines, the average diet is still quite meat based. However, most restaurants also have some vegetarian choices on their menu, and there are a few restaurants which exclusively offer vegetarian and/or vegan dishes.

In general, it is recommended to check with the waiter whether a dish contains meat or not, since sometimes even food labelled vegetarian includes stripes of bacon or a meat-based sauce.

A list of vegetarian and vegan restaurants & health food stores can be found at [happycow, Netherlands Amsterdam/](#)

Halal / Kosher

There are many international restaurants that have provision for halal food; both kosher and halal food can also increasingly be found in the large supermarkets.

A directory of sources for kosher food in the Netherlands can be found at: [kosher Amsterdam](#)

→ You can check [www.thefork.com](#) to find restaurants in the Netherlands.

City Information

Amsterdam is the capital and the most densely populated and biggest city in the Netherlands (Den Haag is the seat of government). Amsterdam now has approximately 918.000 inhabitants. (2023)

More information available on <https://www.iamsterdam.com/en>

LGBTQ+ Community

Historically Amsterdam has always had a relaxed and tolerant approach.

For more specific information see: www.iamsterdam.com/en/see-and-do/whats-on/lgbt/areas.

Security

The Netherlands is an overwhelmingly safe country with high standards of security. The same sensible precautions need to be taken to guard against pickpockets (as in any major city).

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/netherlands/safety-and-security> for more information on travel to the Netherlands.

Crime

In the Netherlands, levels of crime are comparatively low but pickpocketing, handbag snatching and theft from cars are not unknown. Passports, credit cards, travel tickets and money should not be carried together in handbags or pockets. You should leave spare cash and valuables in a safe place. For more information see: [10 tips for avoiding pickpockets](#).

Local Laws and Customs

The Dutch Government introduced compulsory identification and everybody from the age of 14 is required to be able to show a valid identity document to police officers and other law enforcement authorities on their request. The documents you can use to prove your identity depend on your nationality:

- If you are living in or visiting the Netherlands and are a national of the **European Union** (or the European Economic Area) you can use your passport or EU/EER (residence card).
- If you are a **dual national** you can identify yourself with a valid Dutch driver's licence, passport or Dutch/European identity card.
- Photocopies are accepted as a temporary measure, but police may insist on seeing the original document as well.

Don't carry or use drugs. The Netherlands has a reputation for being tolerant on the use of so-called 'soft drugs'. In reality drugs are prohibited, and this tolerance exists only for designated premises in the major cities. Possession of prohibited substances or the purchase of them outside these designated areas can carry a prison sentence.

Since January 2006, the purchase or smoking of soft drugs in public places is an arrestable offence in Amsterdam. There are specifically designated cafés where the use of cannabis is tolerated. Recently the sale of wild mushrooms has become popular, but for smart shops it is prohibited to sell them to tourists. Travellers are advised to exercise extreme caution as combinations of alcohol, cannabis and wild mushrooms are a fatal cocktail and have resulted in several deaths.

Several deaths (of all nationalities) occur each year due to drowning in the canals of Amsterdam. The majority of these happen as a result of celebrations that include drinking heavily and/or smoking cannabis. Particular care should be taken when travelling alongside canals.

Useful Information, Addresses and Phone Numbers

- British Council
Raamplein 1
1016 XK Amsterdam
phone: 00 31 (0)20 550 6060
<http://www.britishcouncil.nl/>
- [British Embassy](#)
Lange Voorhout 10
2514 ED Den Haag
phone: 00 31 (0)70 427 0427
<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-the-hague><https://>

Emergencies

- Embassies, consulates and other representations ([various countries](#))
- Police/Fire Brigade/Ambulance: Emergency phone no: 112
- Dental emergency service: 0900 821 2230
- For a list of hospitals – see www.iamsterdam.com/medical-care-and-insurance/hospitals

The most central hospitals are:

- **OLVG, locatie Spuistraat**
Address: Spuistraat 239a
Tel: +31 (0)20-599 91 11
Website: olvg.ziekenhuis.nl (website in Dutch)
- [Het VU Medisch Centrum](#)
Address: De Boelelaan 1117 - 1118
Tel: +31 (0)20 444 4444
Website: [VU Medisch Centrum - Boelelaan](#)



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